California GARDEN

AUTUMN NUMBER Volume 39, No. 3

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California Garden

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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
The San Diego Floral Association
ADDRESS ALL EDITORIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
150 West Palm, San Diego 3, Calif
AND BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE TO
P.O. BOX 323. SAN DIEGO 12. CALIFORNIA

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Autumn, 1948
Vol. 39 No. 3

Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post Office at San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879. The California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchant's Association

Advertising copy should be in by the first of February, May, August, and November. For rates consult Miss Lenore Stevenson, Advertising Manager, H-6-0057.

Subscription to The California Garden, $1.00 per year; foreign countries and Canada, $1.25; membership, $1.50 per year; The California Garden and membership, $2.00 per year; sustaining, $5.00

Meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Theosophical Society, 4th at Olive. 8:00 P.M.

Inside Flower Shows

ALICE GREER

One finds in a flashback over the shows of a season,—in this last spring season there were twenty or more splendid shows,—that each show expresses the individuality of the community or of the organization staging it. Therein lies part of the interest and fascination of show judging or of show visiting, for that matter.

How true it is, that the distinctive personality of a show represents the cooperative efforts of the many who comprise the show personnel; the director, the committee chairmen, the exhibitors. How true it is, that the best chairman is he who can graciously synchronize the efforts of the workers, and of the exhibitors, into a harmonious whole, a harmonious whole that must always exist from the moment of inception of the show until the minutest details are settled at the close, the fabulous-we-hope-receipts counted, the key turned in the show room door.

It was breath-taking, that first view of the flower show as, before beginning the judging, one stood in the wide entrance way. Harmony, order, beauty prevailed. Although not another human was in the room, the stunning and perfectly staged flower arrangements radiated poignant personalities. One thought of a pink-organdied child fresh from her bath, invitingly holding out her dimpled arms. For a moment one responded with emotional accord to Emily Dickinson:

"I'll tell you how the sun rose,"
"A ribbon at a time;"
"The steeples swam in amethyst,"
"The news like squirrels ran."
"The hills untied their bonnets,"
"The bobolinks began."

It was all vibrant, fresh, scintillating perfection.

Again it was a breath-taking experience. This time one stood waiting for the show to be in order for the judging. Scores of loving souls, after closing time for registering entries, were still scurrying about bringing in,—and with great enthusiasm be it noted,—offerings from their own cottage gardens. *"My* contribution from *my* garden to *our* show in *our* community." Such attitudes cause the heart to quicken.

Yet again, before judging, a breath-taking vista down long aisles, across numerous sections, a display which demonstrated that "Many a mikle makes a muckle" flower show. Such an exhibit as this is the summation of art, of tradition and is, indeed, the blended aggregate of years of experience and of organization. Show directors who have come before have left behind the results of their skilled hands and creative minds; they have bequeathed to us the influence of their spirits. God bless them each and every one!

And along looms another flower show group, the judges. Often from outside the immediate community, they must be synchronized one with the other and with the entire show staff.

This matter of judging,—do we feel that it is looked upon too casually? Not at all. Both selectees and selectors realize that judges are handling the results of creative effort. They realize that the selection of a jury must be made with discrimination since it can make or mar the morale of the whole show personnel. A judge must be led by knowledge of his subject and must be prompted by high motives. He enters upon his duties seriously. He realizes that he has a privilege and a deep responsibility. At times he brings himself up with a start, "Am I to pass judgment on this which is a result of a creative force far superior to mine? How dare I?" But the challenge is great and faint heart ne'er won.

By all means, every judge should be mindful of his obligations to the show committee, just as the chairmen are aware of their obligations to the judges. Again, there must be happy cooperation. Never have I failed to find this splendid relationship existing.

And, certainly, a judge should always have well established bases for his decisions. He should be able to defend his position and offer, when needed, constructive criticism. And by all means, and at all times, a judge must be amenable.

While a judge must be subjective enough to appreciate the mood or spirit expressed by an entry,—here I refer especially to flower arrangements which flower shows tend to feature largely, if not exclusively,—he must be objective and purely impersonal in making his decisions. If

there be an entry, a class, a color, a theme which he may personally dislike, be it his pet peeve,—but which is well done for that which it is attempting to do, — the judge must consider it with as great care and interest as he would if it represented his favorite class. Yes, he must consider it with even greater care. And, on the otehr hand, undue preference must not be given to favorite subjects. A juryman should not think, for instance, "I'm registering first for this arrangement because it features English primroses which carry my memories back to my happy childhood days in England."

Can one, in judging be true to art principles and, at the same time, further the popularity of making show entries? Absolutely. But on this question there are two points of view.

There are those who believe that awards should be granted in a given class, even if the quality of the class is poor. The least poor should rate first place, that which is a little poorer the second and so on. This maintains competition within the class but with a low level of attainment as a basis. Thus accepted standards are not the measuring sticks, there may not be an incentive for future improvement nor the raising of standards. But, by receiving an award, an exhibitor might be encouraged.

On the other hand, there are those who believe that the withholding of awards, except for merit *per se,* upholds standards and, over a period of time, increases the quality of exhibits.

Conditions back of a show have much to do in deciding which of the two foregoing policies should prevail in a given situation. But in both cases, art principles must be the basis for judging. Thus we are true to art. But, by all means, the policy upon which to proceed must be decided before beginning the judging.

Consider whether the flower show to be judged is the product of a young newly formed organization or is the work of a mature and experienced group. Whether it represents a small community or a large community. These factors, at times, alter the picture greatly.

Another moot point in judging procedure must be settled before beginning the judging. It is this; if there is but one entry in a class, thus no competition, may a first prize or any other prize be awarded?

Do we ever fail to accept, or to refuse, the invitation to judge until it is too late for the director to make other selections? Yes, there have been times when judges have failed to appear at all. Picture the poor, already harassed director.

Well in advance of the judging hour, it is good for a judge to acquaint himself with the schedule of classes, the judging points, trophy offerings and general rules, as well as suggestions given in the show schedule. It is taken for granted that the director has sent copies of the schedule to judges.

'Tis a good custom for a judge to take a bird's eye view of his section or of the entire show before starting the judging. In this way he absorbs the feeling of the exhibits and puts himself in touch with the atmosphere of the whole. Often this little trick will prevent that "not yet under way" sensation that at times attacks a jury when considering its first class. If this feeling still persists, it is only fair to all concerned to leave the special class under consideration and return to clear it up later. In fact at any time during the judging when this "fog" exists, postponement of decision or reconsideration is helpful.

Assiduously avoid learning the identity of an exhibitor until after the awards have been granted. Be fair to yourself and to the exhibitor.

Now let us consider the director's side of the picture. The judging of a show runs very smoothly if a judge is assigned to those classes which represent his speciality in interest, training or experience. Even in small flower shows, arrangement classes should not be judged by those who are not essentially authorities on the subject. Cymbidiums should not be judged by those who are not cymbidium authorities, and so on. However, one must remember that to "do" well does not necessarily mean to judge well. A person may be an excellent rose grower, or a rosarian by training, and yet lack those personal qualities for expert judging. He may be able to create perfect flower arrangements and yet be a perfect flop in judging them.

Every section of the show and every class should be conspicuously marked and, as far as possible, segregated. This dispels confusion which might otherwise exist. The chairman should check before judging time to see that entries are placed in the correct classes, that entries in a given class are not scattered, — in large shows,—and that the number of entries in a given class corresponds with the number entered in the clerk's book. Sometimes exhibitors withdraw entries which have been registered with the clerks but fail to notify those in authority. A notice in regard to this might be run in the show schedule. For the judges to have to segregate the entries leads to confusion and wasted time. The practice of having a "general information about entries" clerk to advise exhibitors, is splendid.

The chairman of each section or, in small shows, the general chairman, should at all times accompany the judges. This not to offer information about an exhibitor nor to assist in the judging itself. It is to locate methodically and quickly each exhibit and to tally it with the entry in the clerk's book. The book should be in the hands of a clerk who makes the record while another clerk pins on the awards.

By all means live up to the rules printed on most schedules: "The show room shall be cleared of exhibitors while judging is in progress." "All entries shall be in the hands of the clerks by — o'clock." The headaches and heartaches that ensue when these rules are not enforced!

The show committee should stand by the decisions of the judges. After all, a jury in any field never pleases everybody. Would that it might! If a person is not able to take defeat gracefully, and there are some people so built that psychologically they react badly to defeat, he should not exhibit in competition at a flower show. Show chairman cannot reverse the decisions of their judges for the benefit of such people or any other type of person. Judges are always ready to reconsider when there is a real cause for doing so, however.

But, after all, the average show,— its director, its chairmen, its exhibitors, its judges,—follows these points of procedure and runs smoothly. Many shows improve from year to year. Some have no room for improvement. All are challenges to a judge. They are works of creative

A Novice with Peonies

JOHN D. WIMMER

To most people who have lived in areas where the peony grows, this flower is one of the most outstanding of late spring blooms. To a large group it is the queen of flowers for that season, and I certainly belong to that number. Living on the coastal plane of Southern California, we seldom have a chance to see this magnificent bloom. Climatic conditions are not suited for it because it evidently needs winter frost and cold. This is evidenced by the experience of several friends of mine, in the San Diego area, who tried using some of the roots I bought. But the peony can be well grown in our back country, and, from my experience, it seems well worth while. It is certainly a plant that should be used by those who have places in our mountains. For the peony, and by that I mean Peonia Albiflora, is a rugged plant. It is good, so I am told, for twenty five years, or more, if it is started right and given reasonable care.

This *Peonia albiflora* is a native of Siberia in an area where the temperature often stands at sixty degrees below zero for a long time. From this stock have come most of the varieties of the modern, herbaceous peony. The back ground of cold, which the parent plant had to endure, survives in its progeny's demand for a cold winter season.

Peony cultivation is historically old. Chinese records of the seventh century of our era tell of hundreds of varieties; singles, semi-doubles, doubles. From China, it is thought, the plant first traveled to England in the early part of the last century. From there, it spread to the continent. The English and French hybridizers first produced some of the finest varieties. Now American growers have added to the list of superb modern peonies.

I wish someone would experiment with a cross with our own lovely and shy little native peony, *P californica* (*Brownii*), which is found in so many spots in our back country. This plant, not a foot high, with single blossoms of a reddish brown is a delight. What is more I have found that it transplants quite easily.

I have some land in Pine Hills, and, in 1946, decided to try some peonies. It was rather a major project to clear the land of brush, to plow and cultivate an area large enough to take care of around a thousand peony roots. Rows of ditches were dug to a depth of eighteen inches,—enough rocks were removed for a wall,—a goodly amount of cow manure was placed in the bottom, then the ditch was refilled.

My root stock came from Nebraska and looked clean. There were from three to five eyes to a root which seemed to meet the requirements set up in the literature I had been reading. The roots were planted in late fall with due regard to proper depth of planting. At least, I thought it was with due regard. But I have learned since that a few, planted too deep, did not do as well as the book promised. After planting the roots were given a good soaking, and left from there on to the care of the winter rains and cold.

Although fall planting is recommended, I believe spring is a better time for us in California. Spring planting permits preparing the beds after the first fall rains, and the soil can be turned over again for the actual planting. The place chosen must be open, for the peony likes sunshine and is very intolerant of root competition by trees and shrubs.

For me, the following Spring, in March, it was exciting to see the first shoots appear, dark in color for the reds and light green for the whites. They grew with tremendous speed, buds formed, those sticky buds that drew the ants as I had remembered from days in Ohio. I dutifully disbudded, leaving only the top one so as to produce a large bloom, or pinched out the top bud where I wanted a cluster to develop. I noted that some varieties tended to bloom in clusters while others did not. In early May the first blooms opened, and, depending on the variety, gave a spread of bloom for six weeks. When the season was over each plant had given from one to four blooms.

To carry through the hot, dry season, I felt a good monthly soaking was sufficient. I am hoping that when the plants are well established they will require even less water.

The second winter, I gave the area a top dressing of barnyard manure. I did this despite the warning of many experts who said to be wary of this type of fertilizer. But when I learned that the biggest commercial grower recommends and uses animal manure, I thought I would give it a try, too. The soil that I have is heavy and I feel convinced that humus, supplied in this form, is excellent for it, and, I hope, there is no damage to the peonies. The safe fertilizer, most often recommended by experts, is bone meal.

When the second blooming season came around this year, there was a tremendous increase in the number of blossoms. This year the plants bore from three to eight blossoms each. I am told, and rather vaguely remember, that a good thrifty plant will carry as many as fifteen to twenty blossoms. As to picking them, the rule is leave at least two leaves on each stem and always leave three to four flowers untouched on the plant. This is to insure adequate foliage for the development of the root system. It is also advised that no flowers should be picked until the third season. I did not follow this advice and picked a good many, but with stems of only a few inches. These short stemmed blossoms, however, proved to be very effective when massed in a low bowl.

Now for something as to varieties which have done best with me among the forty which I have:

Baron Schroeder, called white but really a pale flesh pink. Did fine. The foliage is good and the stems strong and tall and the flower very fragrant. It seems good both in the garden and as a cut flower.

Festiva Maxima, a pure white with some scattered touches of crimson near the ends of the petals. The peony flowered very freely and is fairly fragrant.

Solange, a buff, very full and large but not fragrant. This variety was not one of my best because most of

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art, are "joyous stopping places" as the Chinese would say, for the wayfarer in today's disordered living. Let us then respond to the call of flower shows which "waft their own freshness into you" and cause "cares to drop off like autumn leaves."

the buds failed to open. Yet, when they did, it was a perfect blossom.

Myrtle Gentry, did as well with me as any that I have. It is a beautiful rosy white suffused with tints of salmon. It has fine strong stems to carry the large blossoms, and I think was admired above all the rest that I have. It has shown unusually good development for the second year.

Walter Faxon, a medium sized, rather strong shell pink which has done excellently. The blossoms are rather flat and broad which makes it showy despite its smaller size.

Phillippe Rivoire, a beautiful, very dark red with a blackish sheen. It is small but of such good color and fragrance that I would not want to be without it. If it were not for my limited experience, I would call it the best of the reds.

Rose Shaylor, of which I have only one but it seems good and did well with me. This is another flower, rather broad and flat, extremely handsome. Petals are pink, thinning lighter toward the edge and to a creamy yellow to the base where the stamens are prominent.

Mons. Jules Elie, an old variety of great vigor with rose pink blooms of tremendous size, a full crown type.

There are hundreds of varieties from which to choose and catalogue descriptions are all glowing with flattering adjectives. The newer varieties are all more expensive. However, some of the older varieties are cheap only in price. My short experience seems to indicate that, for the beginner, it is best to stay with the old and proved names.

For anyone who may become interested in growing peonies, it seems well worth while to take out membership in the "American Peony Society." Quarterly bulletins keep you informed of new introductions, shows and cultural comments from various parts of the country. This Society has rated all of the standard varieties on a point basis, which is considerable help when buying stock. If you are looking for a new flower hobby and have a suitable place to grow them, try a few peonies. They are really very easy of general culture and appear well adapted to the climatic conditions of our own back country.

Progress Report

W. Allen Perry

Regardless of the dates which historians have assigned to V-E Day and V-J Day, there was little about Balboa Park to indicate that the war was over until the summer of 1948. True, its trees had continued to rise against the horizon, its perimeter lawns had remained green; the Zoological Gardens, the golf courses and playfields had been open to park patrons. But the true heart and the great distinctive feature of Balboa Park—its Exposition Center—had held little lure between December of '41 and the summer now ending.

For the seven and one-half years of Navy occupancy and the beginning of demolition and restoration, this Exposition Area was closed to the public or had nothing to interest visitors. To some of you the days of the museum visits, the organ recitals, the symphony concerts, the lectures and social events in the House of Hospitality, the marvelous food you enjoyed on the terrace of the Cafe del Rey Moro, and idle hours in the gardens and Botanical Building were nostalgic memories. To others, tales of these things may have been a bit of a bore, since you had never experienced them and it rather looked as if you never would. But the Fine Arts Gallery was formally reopened in December, and by summer time, sufficient improvement had been made in the landscape picture, building restoration was progressing sufficiently and there were plays, light operas and concerts to assure old and new San Diegans, and their visitors, that the "park" was being returned to them.

Those who wandered through this area immediately after the Navy vacated have some conception of the extent to which the war-time activity scarred, destroyed and damaged this magnificent center. They saw acres of lawn completely destroyed when they became the sites of tent camps and temporary barracks, galleys and mess hall. They saw empty gardens and the effects of years of minimum maintenance. They gained a little idea of the extent to which buildings were expediently converted to hospital demands. Few of them could realize the problem of attempting to stretch $790,850.00, to which the Navy reduced the City's original restoration request, and $109,684.00 recovered from sales and salvage, to restore the monumental grandeur and useful attractiveness of what is "Balboa Park" to so many people.

This restoration and resuming of attractions and activities is, of necessity, a gradual thing. The Globe Theater had a most successful season and had to increase the run of each production over pre-war schedules. The Fine Arts Gallery is in finer physical condition and its collection had increased to a value of two and one-quarter million dollars at the time of re-opening. The San Diego Museum of Man opened its main building with a new staff and new life; and the remaining rooms will be opened as quickly as the new arrangements and classifications of exhibit material can be installed. This museum's interests and community service program have been increased tremendously. The House of Hospitality has been restored and we hope that this most important facility may be furnished and opened again in the fall season. The recitals on the great outdoor organ have been drawing Saturday and Sunday crowds such as they formerly attracted only during Exposition days. The light opera season in the Ford Bowl played to at least 75,000 people during its summer season.

And, in the meantime, the Recreation Division has opened the Municipal Gymnasium for its program of badminton, volley ball and basketball. It had brought the Federal Building into condition for the Electric Show and a show of the American Kennel Club. It has contracts executed for the conversion of the former State Building and Hollywood Building into highly functional conference and craft centers which will be available to conventions as well. Additions are being made to the parking facilities in this Palisades Area which will improve, but probably not solve, the parking problem.

Flowers bloomed again in the gar-

dens for the first time in seven and one-half years. The magnificent spring displays of Pansies were followed with Calendulas, Centureas and the summer show of Zinnias. The panels of the Mall came alive with Petunias and Ageratum which bloomed against their new, green carpet of lawn. Building difficulties have delayed the opening of the Botanical Building, which will have to be completely refurbished before becoming a justifiable, horticultural attraction. Work on the grand-scale Lily Pond was completed too late for effective planting, but there is no question that it will be in its glory in 1949. Restoration of lawn areas is being delayed because of the impossibility of obtaining pipe with which to replace the irrigation systems. As rapidly as this material can be delivered on outstanding orders, the lawns will be rebuilt.

But the restoration of the Exposition Area is only one phase of the planning for Balboa Park. The plans for the development of the Park Boulevard frontage from the Zoo to the street car right-of-way and from Upas Street to Laurel have been incorporated in the City's master plan. This area will include a great parking lot on the Zoo side; a treatment similar to the Sixth Avenue development immediately adjacent to Park Boulevard; the Veteran's Meeting Building just south of the Roosevelt School; and a highly amusing miniature train which will carry the youngsters on a half-mile ride through an intensively landscaped area now being developed north of the Spanish Village. The Fly-casting Pool has been completed in the Morely Field Area, and so has the new tennis club building. It is anticipated that the riding academy will be moved to this Area as well as the archery ranges and a large, new picnic area. And perhaps you've found other new picnic areas with tables and grills which have been scattered conveniently but carefully throughout the park.

It has not been our intent to give you a complete survey of park restoration and improvements. We have intended to give you assurance that there is much in the park to justify your interest and to reward your attendance.

Beauty Spots

Lenore Stevenson

Trees mark many of the beauty spots in the San Diego area, and are in themselves spots of beauty, especially on the rare occasions when they are invited in to share a home.

Countless numbers of trees stand staunchly at the curbstones as they guard the privacy of homes, and many others have been given the run of the yard in exchange for the shade and beauty they offer. In some instances a tree is made the central figure in a merry-go-round of flowers and shrubs. But how often is the full beauty of a tree caught in the warm embrace of a hospitable house?

A tree is such a demanding guest that it takes patient skill to bring out its full charm. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wilson, who live near Rolando Village, built a house, garage, and patio around an elm tree that now extends a leafy roof over the entire patio, giving it distinctive charm. The Wilsons refused to remove their friendly tree when line and boundary problems arose, and after many measurements their architect found that the tree could be left with the removal of one large branch. Now three great branches serve for hanging baskets; begonias and gardenias cluster at the foot of the elm, where a low brick wall forms a semi-circular bed against the garage wall.

Another place where trees form part of the patio and blend with the style of the home is the white stucco Spanish style home of Dr. and Mrs. Frank Maguire on Utah Street. A low white wall extends out from the house and secludes the red tile patio. At the end of the rectangle two banana trees fling their foliage against the house until their broad leaves reach the curved red tile roof.

Several of the newly built homes on Mission Cliffs Drive have fallen heir to towering date palms that formed an avenue in the bygone Mission Cliffs park. Many a picnic lunch was spread under these tall palms in the days when ladies gathered their full skirts up to board the street cars to ride out to the park for the day, while gentlemen twirled their handlebar moustaches as they promenaded through the ostrich farm there.

A few of these date palms had to be removed to make room for the roadway. However, two have marched right on through to the Strong property, where their clean trunks sweep up to overlook Mission Valley with a regal air. The Strong residence is built in an L-shape with one palm fitting in at the angle only a foot or two from the doorway. The other giant stands guard by the garage, where in contrast a dwarf pine staggers its brilliant green against red brick.

Older trees seem to make their own place in the world as they soften the lines of the houses they shelter. Walnut Street has many fine old trees of several species. One tree there has become uncommonly lazy. Its trunk lies back beside a wall between two houses and its arms lie stretched above its head in a perpetual siesta.

The Scruggs residence on Walnut actually has a tree growing out of the front porch. A square of tile has been removed next to the house wall to allow the trunk, which is about eight inches in diameter, to cuddle up against the house. On the opposite side of the porch and toward the streets its small-leafed twin stands somewhat forward. This placement has increased the depth of the porch, framed the double casement front window, and added height to the one-story home.

Once in a while a tree forces entry into a building by sheer size or monumental character. Such was the case when Mr. Robert V. Ramsey built a structure in the 5500 block of El Cajon Boulevard. If a person can take his eyes away from the El Cajon traffic a few seconds, he may see a great eucalyptus tree reaching up five times the height of the building which encircles the bulky trunk with a cement arm. Long a landmark in the area, this stalwart tree is the leader of a line of tall eucalypti running back from surging traffic.

Much of Chula Vista's charm is due to its many trees of feathery appearance — peppers, tamarisk, and others. These ancient beauties hang their soft drapery from great heights and increase the verdant effect across the whole community.

Along Bonita Road a clump of trees wander in disarray along a ridge in Lynnwood Hills. A trip up the winding road to the crown rewards an inspiring view of the valley along with a glimpse of Dr. and Mrs. P. K. Allen's rustic home. A zigzag split rail fence in its rough hewn beauty juts through the high foliage at intervals atop a low curved wall of native stone with geraniums tumbling down to the road.

At the Allens' homey gate smooth trunks of four eucalypti gather to one side of the early American lamp post to hail a welcome. Beyond the gateway a group of leafy poplars add a friendly note so naturally that there is no delineation as to where the rambling ranch style house begins.

Directly across the emerald lawn two yew trees mark the entrance to the porch. On either side a wisteria and a wild rose rambler twist upward against supports to leave their foliage atop the overhead latticework. To complete the symphony of trees four sycamores saunter off on the far side, their great shoulders holding off the hot sun and adding a sturdiness to the leafy coronet about the house.

The Elms

In an article in a recent *Atlantic*, Donald Culross Peattie sounded the tocsin for the dying elms of our part of the world. Elms have been so closely associated with the early history of the United States, says Mr. Peattie, that they are everyone's loss in every part of the country. Even in our west coast states, where elms are not familiar, they are not unknown. And today, Mr. Peattie's article points out, all over the country elms are falling victim to the Dutch elm disease.

Unfortunately, only carefully made, scientific tests can positively identify this disease, and no cure is known. The only defense against the Dutch elm disease, is spraying for insects, pruning dead and sick wood and burning it. According to the article, before the war substantial government funds were being spent to save these trees. Peattie is urging that people from all parts of the country write their congressmen, asking that the government again assume the expense of a national program to save our immemorial elms.

Your Garden

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

The coming months are the ones for bulb planting. And while bulbs can be, and are, planted as late as the end of December, most of them should be in the ground by Thanksgiving. The longer the warm weather lasts, the further the planting may be postponed. Ranunculus, however, should be put in during October for best results. Other bulbs to be planted during this quarter include: Amarylius, Anemone, Crocus, Freesia, Hyacinth, Iris, Narcissi, Tulips. Gladiolus corms may also be planted now but they bloom just as soon if planted late in December rather than October or November.

Soil for bulb planting should be rich. Steer manure, if mixed with the soil some time before planting, can be used. Bone meal, of course, is standard for bulbs. Snowflakes will multiply and bloom right in the roots of trees, once they are established. Ranunculus do better if no manure is used where they are to be planted. Fertilizer of other types should be put in a furrow alongside the plants.

October: Sweet peas are planted this month for April to July bloom. They need very rich soil and lavish watering from a trench. Annuals which seed themselves, can be thinned this month, and, when the new plants are an inch or two tall, the old plants should be cut down. Seeds of Candytuft, Cornflowers, Larkspur, Mignonete, Scabiosa, Sweet Alyssum can be sown in well-drained parts of the garden. Perennials like Huechera, Columbine, Shasta Daisies, should be separated now and reset. Iris can also be reset.

November: This is a good month for starting bulbs in pots and also for repotting house plants. Bulbs should be set in a deep pot with the tip of the bulb at the surface of the earth. They should be kept in the dark for at least six weeks before bringing them gradually into the light to bloom. Narcissi, grown in water on stones, are also best started at this time. The stones should be merely supports and should not be a solid base under the bulbs. Water should not be higher than the base of the bulbs or it will cause rot. This month seedlings can still be put in the garden. Dead chrysanthemum stalks should be cut down to the ground. Where a number of the same variety are planted together, only one or two need be left in the ground for next year's stock. The rest can be pulled up.

December: A few bulbs may still be put in. This is the month to plant Gladiolus corms for June flowering. Seeds of Tuberous Begonias can be planted in flats now. Sweet peas can still be put in. For the belated gardener, Calendula, Pansy, Snapdragon, Stock and Viola plants will still be available at nurseries.

Floral Association Show

The San Diego Floral Association will have a fall flower show October 23 and 24. Where the show will be held will be announced later. As in the past, the show will be open from 1 p. m. to 5 p. m. Saturday, and 10:30 a. m. to 5 p. m. Sunday. It will feature Chrysanthemums, berried plants, and Saint Paulias.

Unusual is the fact that this will be a real show, not a competition. Exhibitors will be invited to display their best examples of Chrysanthemums, berried plants and St. Paulias. Arrangements in these materials will also be shown, not entered for competition for prizes or ribbons. Several professional florists will also enter displays not in competition.

A money raising section of the show will be the sale of potted Chrysanthemums. Members of the Society and their friends will be asked to contribute Chrysanthemums blooming in pots. These will be sold giving members, and the public, the opportunity to buy blooming Chrysanthemums for decoration now and stock next year.

Mrs. Lester Wright is making up a committee to work with her to create a really beautiful occasion. It is hoped that every member of the society will be both an exhibitor and a visitor. This will be the first large event the Society has had in a long time, and it will merit the full support of the members.

Interview

R. E. Dodson Jr., Sanitary Engineer for the City of San Diego Water Department is interviewed about Colorado River water in the garden.

"We didn't expect Colorado River water to damage gardens, and it hasn't" says Roy E. Dodson Jr. Sanitary Engineer. He is the member of the City Water Department who has done and continues to do research on our water. Industrial users, according to Mr. Dodson, have had some difficulties but gardeners were unduly alarmed. This alarm has probably been due to a very natural confusion on the part of laymen, between the terms "alkaline" and "alkali." "Alkaline" is merely a chemical term to define the reaction of a substance as indicated by a pH (acid alkaline character) value of above 7.0.

As Colorado River water is the basis for the great crops of the Imperial Valley, Mr. Dodson points out, it is not too high in mineral count to be usable. However, the good drainage of the valley soil is an important factor in making the use of this water satisfactory. There is a growing agreement between agricultural scientists that the character and drainage of the soil makes an important difference when this kind of water is used.

While natural Colorado River water does not have an abnormal sodium content, it does have a moderate amount of the minerals which help to create soil salinity. The amount of these minerals is not great enough to damage most plants quickly, or by direct use. But it does increase the tendency to leaf burn if delicate plants are watered in the sun, and, over a period of time, this water can cause a concentration of salts in the soil which could be harmful.

Mr. Dodson points out that any damage can be easily prevented by following good gardening practices and leaching the soil regularly. Even if the heavy rains, so long absent, were to return, he says, it would still be advisable to do extra irrigating. This irrigation should be so prolonged that the water seeps down to a considerable depth of soil. Doing this will wash the harmful minerals away from the root zones of plants, and need be done little more than once a year to supplement the leaching of rainfall.

In heavy soil, according to Mr. Dodson, the evaporation of the water from the surface may concentrate salinity in the upper root zone. Under any kind of irrigation, these clay soils can become unmanageable by forming a sticky mass which dries into compact, hard blocks. Such soil always benefits by the addition of organic matter like compost, manure, straw or peat. To cultivate, after irrigation, helps to prevent the concentration of salinity in the surface area.

"Leaching," says Mr. Dodson, "does remove some of the nutrients from the soil along with the injurious minerals. Because of this, leaching must always be followed by some kind of fertilizer to enrich the soil again."

Potted plants may need more frequent leaching than the garden. For them, leaching once in two months is not too much, if it is followed by fertilizer. Some people think it wise to re-pot with fresh earth every year and Mr. Dodson agrees.

"Camellias, Gardenias, Azaleas, Begonias are all plants which needed special care in this area before we had Colorado water," says Mr. Dodson. "They are acid loving plants some of which can thrive in soil with a pH of 5.0 or lower."

As the pH of un-mixed El Capitan water was 7.8 it is evident that such acid loving plants need only a little extra care, to do well with Colorado River water with a pH of 9.1.

For potting, one part acid peat moss to two or three parts of leaf mold or loam, will keep these plants acid for quite a time. Azaleas, says Mr. Dodson, can be planted in pure peat. Sulphur or ammonium sulphate will create acidity in the garden. There are a number of special fertilizers to be used on these plants. Azaleas, Camellias, Gardenias should be watered as infrequently as possible without permitting them to go dry. If planted in the ground, they should always be in light, well drained soil.

"When the Colorado River water is softened for the city, it will bring a new set of gardening problems. But that is still some way off," Mr. Dodson warned.

FROM THE FILES

Placing of Trees and Shrubs

By K. O. Sessions

San Diego's favorable climate makes it possible for vines, shrubs and trees to grow twice as fast as they do in the central part of California, the San Francisco Bay region and about five times as fast as in the colder climates of the Middle West and Atlantic Coast. Believing this fact, would it not be a wise precaution to estimate or know the size of your plant in two to five or twenty years before you decide where to place it? It may be a tree only 1 foot high—such as the Araucaria Excelsa or Norfolk Island Pine, in twenty years it will be 40 feet or more tall and have a spread of 20 to 25 feet.

The Pittosporum undulatum — one of our excellent shrubs—becomes in five years a small tree — surely it should not be placed within six inches or one foot or even three feet of the house or the front steps. Likewise, most of the thrifty and desirable shrubs, when used next to the house should be set out from two to four feet from the building.

The Italian Cypress soon is 10 to 15 feet tall. If the house is a cottage unless thought and care is given to the location the top of Italian Cypress will soon be beneath the eaves. A tree has long life—it is a joy to see it in its full development—then why not place is thoughtfully and carefully, so that when it is 10 to 20 years old it will be a fine asset to the property and not a crooked and undesirable tree—too large for its position and must be cut down. One should place thoughtfully the large growing plants—then fill in the space with the small growing plants that will be taken out in time. Such fillers are: Streptosolens, Lantanas, Heliotropes, Rock Roses, Genistas, Dahlias for the summer—Marguerites and choice Pelargoniums, etc.

Another class of plants that are deserving of more attention and use are the very slow and low growers. The Indian Hawthornes or Raphiolepis is at the head of such a list — Creeping or prostrate growing Junipers, Diosma Alba or Breath of

Heaven, Coprosmas so planted and trained that they grow flat and not tall, many sorts of dwarf and slow growing evergreens.

Some vines make an excellent ground cover when allowed to spread over the ground (especially on a slope) instead of training them to a trellis. We need to use more plants here as ground covers and therefore have less lawn. It is a serious mistake to trim every shrub so the grass can grow up to its trunk—much better to let the foliage come to the ground and cover quite an area and keep the grass outside of it.

So many of our Citizens have had homes and gardens in the colder sections of the United States, where the trees and shrubs were practically all deciduous—and they are accustomed to their bareness in the winter and to have the grass grow up to the stem of the plant.

Also the gardener who makes the lawn and the sprinkler system man wants to have everything in lawn—naturally the bigger the better—but in this favored climate it is a mistake—less lawn—and more color in the garden and a fine tree or two even on a small lot adds to the interest and the setting of the home and to the attractiveness of the city.

Throughout the greater part of the U. S. one can have a lawn in the summer time and only bare trees in the winter—but here we can have gay flowering trees, vines and shrubs in the winter, but a poor lawn. So let us have less lawn and more beauty by carefully placing plants so they have room for full development and a long life.

When dahlias are brown and dead, it is time to cut them down. Sever the stems a foot from the ground, and then dig up the tubers very carefully, digging gently all around, and lifting the clump out of the ground without using the stem as a handle. Once out of the ground, the stem is cut to an inch or two from the crown of the clump. This clump should be allowed to dry for two or three hours before being turned upside down for complete drying out. When the clumps are dry, immediately divide them into halves or quarters. Dust the separated parts with dry sulphur and place them in a partly shaded place for a couple of days.

San Diego Tulips

MARGARET HILLER

When easterners first came to southern California, they were so happy to grow Poinsettias, Hibiscus, Lantana and Geraniums out of doors all year long, that they asked for nothing more. It all seemed so wonderful, that they only occasionally mentioned the glories of more northern springs, decorated by Daffodils, Hyacinths and Tulips. Today, we all tend to be nostalgic about those northern springs, no matter how unfamiliar. It is natural for gardeners to long for whatever it is here to grow.

Tulips, in particular, were absent from San Diego city gardens for many years. They could be grown in heavenly profusion up near Julian. But any attempts to grow them here, at sea level, were disappointing. At best they had an infuriating way of blooming before they really got their heads out of the ground. Their cups were filled with mud or dust, their petals were like a puppy's bent ear. At worst they did not come up at all or sent up a small spearhead of green that promptly withered. Frustration was the crop raised by every Tulip ambitious gardener in San Diego.

But now, as many local gardeners have found out, Tulips can be grown here on stems as long and sturdy as any that grow in colder climates. And the blossoms will be big and fine, too. It is best to plan on buying new bulbs every year. If bulbs are lifted before the leaves are brown, they do not seem to bloom again. And if the bulbs are left in the ground until the leaves have browned, the bulb has usually rotted away.

In this southern climate, Tulips grow tallest in a place where they get plenty of light but a minimum of direct sun. It is best to take the top six inches of soil off the bed. Then the earth in the bed can be mixed with bone meal and a thin layer of sand can be put on top of it. This prevents any chance of burning the bulbs. It is good to leave the bed open for a day or two before putting in the Tulips and covering them with soil. The bed should then be given a good soaking and, after that, be kept moist but not wet.

Heavy wire stakes, put down with each bulb, are advisable. Such a stake is not needed to support the twenty four to thirty six inch stems. The stake is needed in case of rain storms, which are likely to flatten these garden treasures to the ground. After all, the Tulips cost enough trouble so that the proud producer will want to display rather than describe them.

Tulip bulbs from Washington and Oregon seem particularly suited to this climate. It is desirable to keep them in the bottom of the refrigerator for ten days to two weeks before planting. That is, if the housekeeper will endure this garden invasion. This holds the bulbs back so that, if the ground stays warm, they will not hurry into too precipitate an appearance.

Hyacinths and Daffodils benefit by similar treatment but they are much more tolerant of full sun than are the Tulips. The newer Daffodils seem to be ready to shoot up on tall stems almost anywhere.

Bulb gardens in white are almost the loveliest of lovely white gardens. Iris, Hyacinths, Daffodils, Crocus, Tulips all white and edged with white violets is striking. For Hyacinths, L'Innocence is a good white, Glacier Tulips, Beersheba Daffodils, Schneecuppe Iris are all white in different tones. White Queen violets and Snowstorm Crocus complete a perfect picture.

During December every Boston ivy, Virginia creeper, Honeysuckle; in fact, all decidious vines should be pruned severely. New growth will be made by the middle of January or the first of February. The winter blooming and other evergreen vines should not be pruned until March or April just before the spring growth begins. The tall, high growing *Bignonia Tweediana* needs very thorough pruning each year during the month of December.

In California, November is the month when we return thanks for what has been given us in the garden in past months and make preparation for what we will have in the months to come.

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